

Implementation of NHDP

268. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

the progress up-to-date in implementing the National Highway Development Project;

whether the finance for implementing this project has been tied up;

if so, what are the details thereof;

whether Government are satisfied with the implementation capabilities of the National Highways Authority of India: and

if not, what measures are contemplated to strengthen NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Out of the total length of 13250 km of National Highway Development Project (NHDP), consisting of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North South & East-West Corridors, 9 length of 588 km on GQ and 630 km on North-South & East-West Corridors have been completed.

(b) and (c) The project will be finance from cess funds, market borrowings, external assistance and private financing.

(d) and (e) National Highways Authority of India have the implementation capabilities and whenever considered necessary as a result of monitoring and review are being further empowered to undertake the task of NHDP.

Loan for NHDP

269. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government to raise Rs. 12000 crore *via* Bonds to Finance NHDP" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 25th May, 2000;

whether these will be tax free roads:

if so, whether the Investment is also rebateable under Section 88L;

the agencies which have volunteered to extend loans and the amount expected from them;

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RAJYA SABHA

(e) the time by when the work will start; and

(f) the date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tax exemption from long term capital gains under the newly created Section 54EC of the Income Tax Act will be available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) It is proposed to issue bonds for Rs. 500 crores. However, it is too early to indicate the names of agencies, who will invest in the bonds as also the time frame for its completion.

Allocation of funds to Maharashtra

† 270. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of amount which has been decided to be given to Maharashtra on the basis of the news-item published in Dainik Jagran of 9th June 2000 under the caption, "Rajmarg Vikas Ke liye Vishwa Bank se 51.6 crore dollar ka rin" and the amount earmarked for each highway name-wise in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): No project in Maharashtra is covered under the proposed World Bank Loan of USS 516 Million.

Funds for Super Highway project

271. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

the progress of Super Highway six lane North-South Corridor and East-West Corridor linking National Highways;

the amount of fund allotted in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

whether there is any further plan to extend it to transport-bottle-necked States like that of Mizoram and Manipur to the extent to Tamu, border town of India and Myanmar?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.